Nexus between Government Officials and Drug Companies

2961. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nexus between Government officials and drug companies have worked to the detriment of the objectives of the Medical Stores Organisation (MSO); and

(b) in what manner Government are going to tackle this problem so that consumers can get quality medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such nexus.

(b) Medical Stores Organisation ensures that quality medicines are supplied to the consumers. For this purpose samples from each batch are picked up at random, coded and then sent to two different Government approved laboratories for test and report. Stores are finally accepted for supply to the consumers only after satisfactory test reports are received from both the testing laboratories.

Awareness of HIV/AIDS and STD in Rural areas

2962. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the level of awareness of HIV/AIDS and STD in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, age-wise and sex-wise; and

(c) whether Government feel that the awareness of HIV/AIDS at senior school level is essential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Behavioral Sentinel Survey was conducted through an independent organisation on the awareness levels about HIV/AIDS, in various parts of the country.

(b) The details are given in the statement I and II (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.